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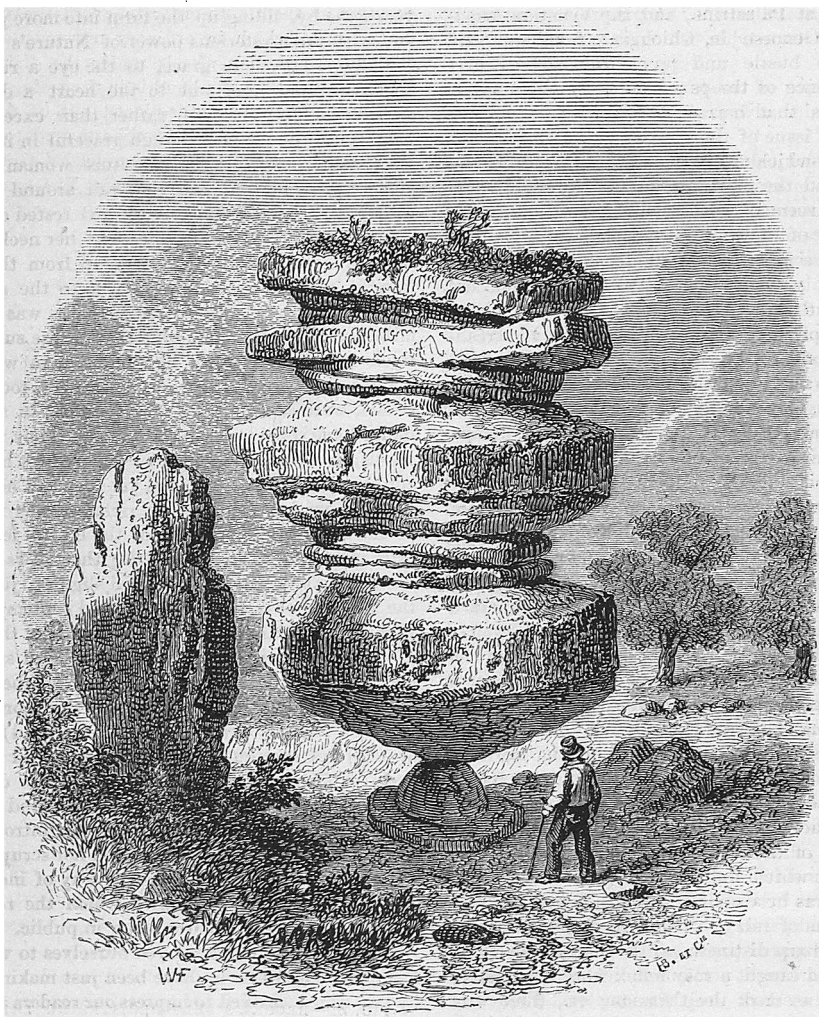
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## THE BRIMHAM ROCKS, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.

IN Yorkshire, some miles from Ripley, upon the road leading to Patley Bridge, may be seen groups of rocks of a strange form, known under the name of the "Brimham Rocks." These groups, scattered irregularly over a space of about forty acres, evidently testify to the occurrence of some great convulsion of nature; but certain archæologists consider these colossal stones to be Celtic monuments. This hypothesis is contrary to the generally received opinion, that Druidical monuments have in most cases been transported from a distance to the places in which they are generally found; this having been, it is said, a condition essential to their consecration. On the other hand, the Brimham Rocks do not present either in their form or in their position any of those characteristics which are always met with in those monuments amongst which it is sought to

to show that the Brimham Rocks were in ancient times appropriated to the purposes of religion.

We have already spoken, in a former series of this work, of the multiplicity of these monuments in various parts of the United Kingdom and in France. In all likelihood the dispute as to the purpose for which the various structures known as *raths*, and cairns, &c., were originally intended will never be satisfactorily settled. The theory which connects them with the Druidical rites, seems to us most probable; and to all who have been familiarised with it from childhood, it would be unpleasant to have it overthrown by any cold criticism. The monks of the middle ages are famed for having an eye for the beautiful and picturesque in choosing sites for their monasteries; the Druids, if these monstrous circles were their



THE BRIMHAM ROCKS.

number them. It is true, only, that these stones have been dressed with some rude instrument. Many of them bear on the summit turning stones. That represented in our engraving, and which Mr. Hayman Rooke believes to be an idol, rests upon a large pedestal from one to two feet broad at its summit, and cut at the base in the form of a hexagon.

Another rock, called the Great Gun, gives out a hollow sound at one of its extremities, when one speaks in a low voice through a hole bored in the opposite side. Another, situated on a very high hill, projects its shadow, in the middle of the day, upon a neighbouring cottage. It is called the South Stone. Every year, on Midsummer-eve, time out of memory, a fire is lighted near this rock, and this tradition is one of the weightiest proofs that have been brought forward

temples, have a right to still greater praise for their love of the grand and sublime. Nearly all their monuments are to be found in the midst of scenes in which the mind could be most readily impressed with feelings of awe, resulting from outward impressions of immensity, or elevation—wide plains, or high hill tops commanding an extended prospect. On a lofty hill in Donegal, in Ireland, overlooking the vast tract of lake and mountain which in that wild region stretches along the coast of the Atlantic, with its base sloping to the edge of the stormy waters of Lough Swilly, there exists a Druidical circle, covering the space on the conical summit. A more fitting spot for a fire-worshipper to adore the rising or the setting sun exists not in nature.